

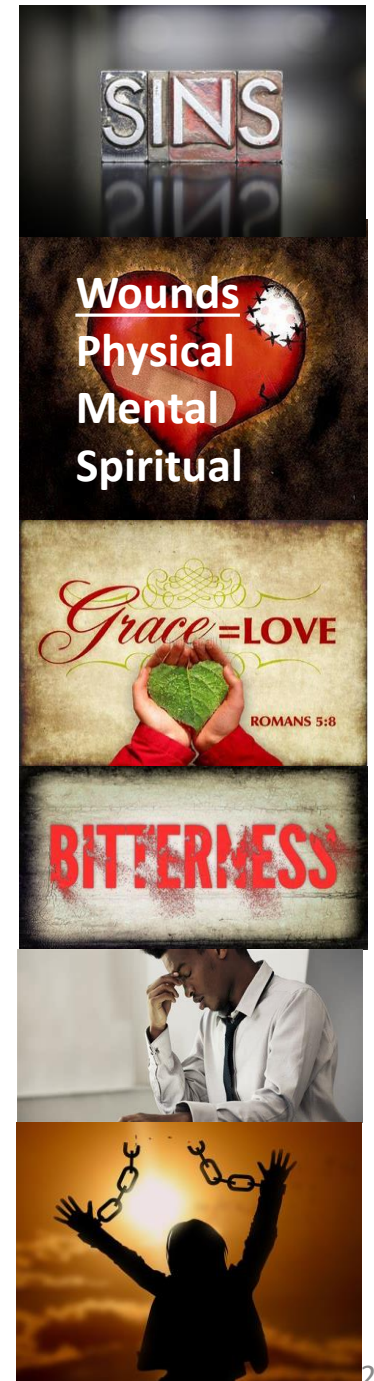
Woundedness and Transformation:

Encountering Christ as the Wounded Healer



Premise and Agenda

- Spiritual reality of woundedness
- Embracing or avoiding - how we face and deal with our wounds
- Biblical case study in woundedness and transformation
- How Christ treated and healed wounds of body, mind, and soul
- Types of wounds and how we treat them in ourselves and others

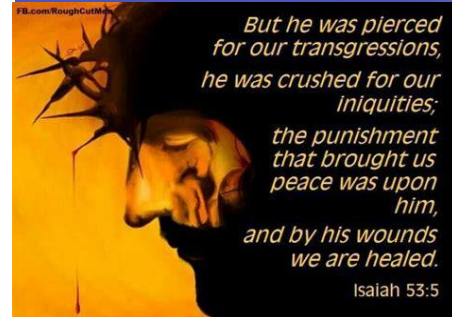


Spiritual Reality of Woundedness

“I will put enmity between you [serpent] and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” (Genesis 3:15)

“He bears our sins and suffers for us...He was wounded because of our lawlessness, and became sick because of our sins. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him and by His bruise [wounds] we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:4-5) (1 Peter 2:24, Hebrews 4:18, Luke 22:44)

“Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. *Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord....*” (John 20:19-20)



Embracing Our Wounds

Be Willing to Carry Our Cross

Then He said to *them* all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. (Luke 9:23)

Make the Tough but Right Choice

“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” (Matthew 7:13-14)

Face Reality

“He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live...These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” (John 11:25, 16:33)



Biblical Case Study: Will, Wounding and Transformation

**Genesis 32:22-32 – The Man Who Wrestled
with God**

Jacob was *alone* and wrestled with *a man*
(Christ) *all night* until *daybreak* and *would
not let go*

Christ touched Jacob's hip and it became
dislocated (wounded)

Christ renamed Jacob (the deceiver) and
called him Israel (God prevails)

Christ blessed Jacob as the sun rose - "For I
saw God face to face and my soul was
saved" (v30)

Transformed Jacob walked with a limp after
the encounter (an ever present reminder)



Christ and Wounds of Body, Mind, and Soul

“And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their *diseases*, as well as those who were tormented with *unclean spirits*. And they were healed.” (Luke 6:17-18)

Body

The lepers, dead girl, Jairus' daughter, blind man, paralytic, Peter's mother-in-law and others suffering bodily illness - **Christ and the physically sick**

Mind

The adulteress, Samaritan “woman” (John 19:26), tax collector, prostitute, Peter— **Christ and moral failure**

Soul

The Gadarene demoniac and others– **Christ and those in torment**



How We are Healed of Wounds

“The pathway to Christian wholeness and health involves treating the ill person not as an isolated individual but as a member of the universal body of Christ...Every form of illness causes suffering. Most cause us to suffer both physically and psychologically. All of them create spiritual suffering, since they reveal, sometimes with certain cruelty, the fragile nature of our condition.” (The Theology of Illness by Jean-Claude Larchet)

- Treated as whole persons versus (physical, mental, spiritual) versus just treating the symptoms, illness, or organs or “One size fits all”**
- Christ healed people as persons with a word, a touch, or in stages**
- Wisdom of Sirach 38:1-15 – Honoring the Physician and James 5:13-18 – The Work of Faith: Healing**



Wounds of Words

**“In the beginning was the Word (Logos)”
(John 1:1)**

“But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” (Matthew 12:36-37)

“But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.” (Matthew 15:18)

James 3:1-12 - The Untamable Tongue

**“Sticks and stones will break my bones
but words will break my spirit” and Psalm
42:10/41:11 LXX**



Wounds of Moral Failure

Shame - toxic shaming (i.e., Pharisees house of Israel, hypocrisy)

Inability to deal with our own wounds

Guilt – self absorbed (i.e., Cain, Judas) or induced by shame – self-hatred

Confusing our sins with being a bad person

Damaged will and hiding/running away versus facing and confessing

Church or pseudo Church?



Deep Wounds of Mind and Soul

Anxiety and depression

Mental illness and torment

Existential crisis - lives lacking meaning and purpose

Abuse of all types

Higher rates of suicide among youth

Mental health practitioners – demand eclipses supply



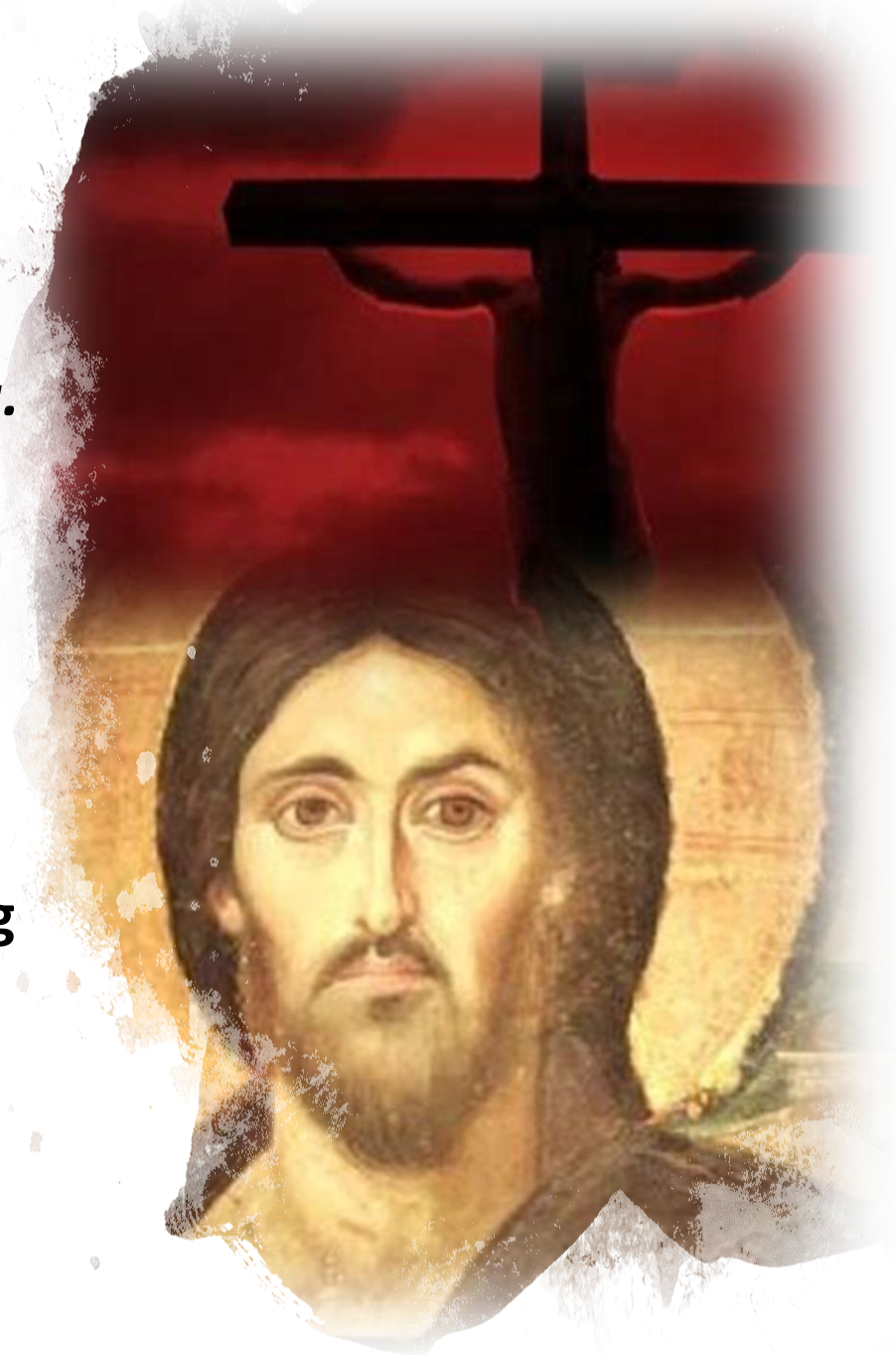
Becoming Christ's Agents of Healing

"This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." (John 15:12-13)

To truly facilitate the healing of another person, we must be Christ-like, that is, be willing to endure our own crucifixion on behalf of that person without expecting or wanting anything in return except that person's well being

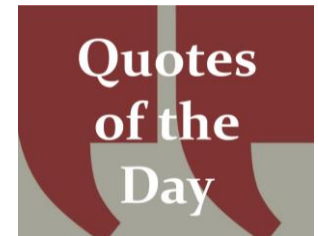
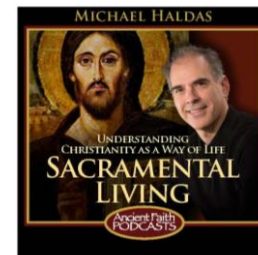
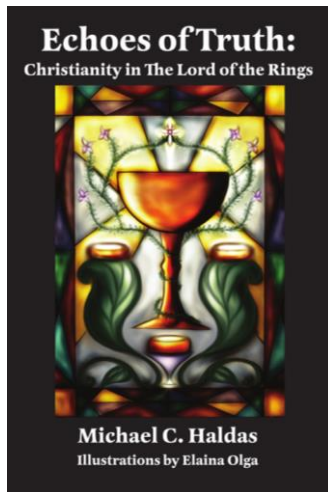
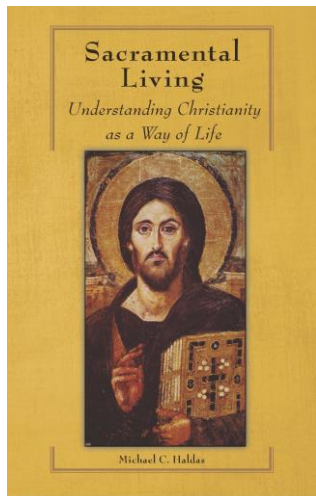
Matthew 11:30 – "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light"

John 14:27 – "My peace I give you"



Questions and Comments

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